DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to the Amendment filed 03/30/2010. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 9-12 are new. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are now pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Siminski on 06/14/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A carbon aerogel molded part including an aerogel and formed without ~~aqueous~~ additional binder containing a filler including inorganic hollow spheres and having a thermal conductivity of up to 0.5 $Wm^{-1}K^{-1}$, where the pore space between the hollow sphere is completely filled by the aerogel.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A process for ~~the~~ a preparation of the carbon aerogel molded part according to claims 1, comprising the steps of: a. preparation of a sol without ~~aqueous~~ additional binders; b. mixing the sol with a filler including inorganic hollow spheres; c. gelling of the sol into a gel; d. drying of the gel; and e. pyrolyzing the ~~resulting~~ dry gel to form the carbon aerogel molded part.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5. The present claims are allowed over the closest references: Ratke et al. (EP 1077097).

Ratke '097 disclose resorcinol-formaldehyde aerogel with molding sand (e.g. inorganic filler) is used to make molded part by shaking and knocking compression when filling the mold (see Embodiment: Production of the aerogel solution) in which the plastic aerogel can be converted to carbon aerogel in vacuum or protective gas with temperature above 1000°C (e.g. pyrolysis) [0004]. The carbon aerogels have extreme small effective thermal conductivities in the order of some mW/(m·K) [0004].

However, Ratke '097 does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed carbon aerogel molded part including an aerogel and formed without additional binder containing a filler including inorganic hollow spheres and having a thermal conductivity of up to 0.5 $Wm^{-1}K^{-1}$, where the pore space between the hollow spheres is completely filled by the aerogel.

There is no prior art of record, alone or in combination teach or fairly suggest the claimed carbon aerogel molded part and process for the preparation of the carbon aerogel molded part.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571)270-5459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday w/alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on (571)272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ling-Siu Choi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Chun-Cheng Wang/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/CCW/